

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 6 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 may be found at least at page 8, lines 24-29 and page 7, lines 18-19 of the specification. Claim 6 is amended to depend from claim 5. No new matter is added. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-A-2001-182978 to Teruo et al. (hereinafter "Teruo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,507,847 to George et al. (hereinafter "George"), U.S. Patent No. 6,190,104 to Ikeda et al. (hereinafter "Ikeda") and U.S. Patent No. 7,192,241 to Momoki. The Office Action, on page 5, rejects claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Teruo in view of George, Ikeda, Momoki and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0108334 to Rapisarda et al. (hereinafter "Rapisarda"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant understands that the Examiner intended to reject claim 12 as indicated in the Advisory Action, but notes that claim 12 is not formally rejected in the detailed Action.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, among other features, a body which supports the arm and which has a vent hole arranged on a lower side of the first floor, a body cover disposed on a side surface of the body, and a base cover disposed at the base of the body, wherein a gap is formed on an inner side of a lower portion of the body cover between the body cover and the base cover so that air is upwardly taken in and from which air in the body is downwardly discharged to the second chamber upon a descending operation of the body.

The Office Action asserts that a combination of Teruo, George and Ikeda teaches many of the features recited in at least independent claim 1. The Office Action concedes that

the asserted combination of Teruo, George and Ikeda fails to disclose a vent hole arranged on a lower side of the first floor from which air, in the body is downwardly discharged to a second chamber upon descending; and the vent hole is a downward gap between a body cover and a base cover. Rather, the Office Action relies on Momoki, in its disclosure of a substrate conveyor robot, to make up for this shortfall. The Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the gap of Momoki in the combination of Teruo, George and Ikeda in order to allow the robot to move vertically. This analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reason.

Momoki is directed to a substrate conveyor robot that inserts and removes a substrate to and from an arbitrarily positioned container (Abstract). Momoki teaches, at col. 5, lines 47-50, that a substrate conveyor robot 1 has a robot body 2 with a rotatable base 3. The Office Action asserts that a gap is formed between the robot body 2 and base 3 that can reasonably be considered to correspond to the recited gap between a body cover and base cover. The Office Action further alleges that when the base 3 descends into the robot body 2, air is downwardly discharged to the second chamber as recited in the pending claims.

Momoki cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, a body which supports the arm and which has a vent hole arranged on a lower side of the first floor, a body cover disposed on a side surface of the body, and a base cover disposed at the base of the body, wherein a gap is formed on inner side of a lower portion of the body cover between the body cover and the base cover so that air is upwardly taken in and from which air in the body is downwardly discharged to the second chamber upon a descending operation of the body.

The gap illustrated in Momoki between base 3 and robot body 2 cannot be considered to correspond to the recited gap formed on an inner side of a body cover between the body cover and the base cover because Momoki fails to teach a body cover disposed on a side surface of the body and a base cover disposed at the base of the body. Further, the robot body

2 in Momoki does not have a gap formed on an inner side of a lower portion of the robot body 2 as recited in independent claim 1. Rather, Momoki merely illustrates a gap formed at an upper portion of the robot body 2. Air discharged from this gap, between base 3 and robot body 2, would go in any direction. The air is not necessarily directed downward, as the Office Action suggests.

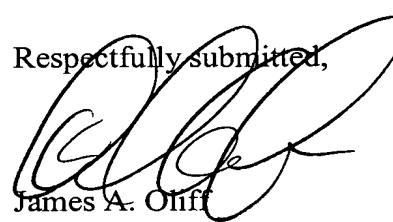
As such, Momoki fails to disclose the recited body which supports the arm and which has a vent hole arranged on a lower side of the first floor, a body cover disposed on a side surface of the body, and a base cover disposed at the base of the body, wherein a gap is formed on an inner side of a lower portion of the body cover between the body and the base cover so that air is upwardly taken in and from which air in the body is downwardly discharged to the second chamber upon a descending operation of the body.

For at least the foregoing reason, no permissible combination of Teruo, George, Ikeda and Momoki, which Applicant does not concede are combinable in the manner suggested, can reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features recited in independent claim 1. Further, and because Rapisarda is not applied in a manner to make up for the above-identified shortfall in the application of the other applied references to claim 1, dependent claims 2, 3 and 5-12 would also not have been suggested by the various combinations of currently-applied references for at least the dependence of these claims on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the various combinations of currently-applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:MJS/ssh

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 26, 2009

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